

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 are pending in this Application. The Examiner has allowed claims 1-11, 21, 24, and 28, and has objected to claims 12-20, 22, 23, and 25-27. In this Response, Applicants have added claims 29-40 and cancelled claims 18, 23, and 26-28.

In the August 30, 2004, Office Action, the Examiner suggested some claim amendments to address typographical and antecedence informalities. These claim amendments included amendments to existing claims as well as additional claims (which the Examiner numbered 29-49). The Applicants thank the Examiner and appreciate the time and effort expended on these suggestions.

With respect to the Examiner's suggestions, the Applicants have accepted all of the Examiner's suggestions regarding claims 12-25. Regarding the Examiner's other suggestions:

Applicants have added Examiner's suggested claims 29-30 as claims 29-30 herein;

Applicants have amended and added Examiner's suggested claims 32-33 as claims 31-32 herein;

Applicants have added Examiner's suggested claims 36-37 as claims 33-34 herein;

Applicants have added Examiner's suggested claims 39-40 as claims 35-36 herein; and

Applicants have added Examiner's suggested claims 42-45 as claims 37-40 herein.

CONCLUSIONS

Applicants believe the present claims to be in condition for allowance, and earnestly request early notification of same. If, for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the Application on the basis of this amendment and feels that a telephone conference would help clear up any unresolved matters, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

McDONNELL BOEHNEN
HULBERT & BERGHOFF



Eric R. Moran
Reg. No. 50,967

Date: September 29, 2004